# Ezekiel - Commentaries by Clifford Henry Brown

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Ezekiel. The part of the 14th chapter. Of Ezekiel 12 verse. Ezekiel 14 verse 12. Word of the Lord came again to me, saying, Send a man. When the land sinneth against me by transgressing grievously, then will I stretch out my hand upon it, and will break the staff of bread below. And will send a family upon it. And will cut off man and he's from it. Though these three men. Nor Daniel and Joe. We're in it. They should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness. Seth the Lord well. If I cause noise and reach the pass through the land. And they spoil it so that they desolate that no man can pass through because of the beast. These three men were in it as I lived, that the Lord God they should deliver neither sons nor daughters. They only shall be delivered. The land shall be desolate. What if I bring you sword upon that land and say sword go through the land so that I cut off man and beast from it? All these three men, then it as I left, saith the Lord God, They shall deliver me the sons nor daughters. But they only shall be delivered themselves. Or if I send the pestilence into that land. And pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it, man and beast. Both Noah, Daniel and Joe were innocent. As I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter. They shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness. For thus that the Lord God, how much more when I send my four sword judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, the famine, the noise and beast, the pestilence, to cut off from McMahon and beast, yet behold therein shall be left to remnant. This gives us a starting place for our little meditation this afternoon. I think we're just a bit ambitious. In trying to summarize. Of the lives of these three men. But when the word of God lakes. Names together in this way, I think we're not going to go amiss by. Linking them together. No meditations. Ezekiel. Lived toward the end of the history of the Jews before their captivity. In fact, he himself was carried into captivity, and a good share of his prophecy was written while he was in captivity. He was a faithful man. He wasn't afraid to tell the truth made him unpopular. But he was willing to suffer from the. And is bringing before the consciences of the guilty people who were so careless. The fact that though three of the most remarkable men. That we have recorded in biblical history. Although they were there at the present time, Speaking of his day. And the judgments came. Their righteousness would only deliver their own souls. Think of singling out three men that way. They're separated in history by a matter of 2000 years. Well, Daniel and Joe. It's all the more remarkable the ordering which they're given. It is more Job and Daniel. No, Daniel was a contemporary of Ezekiel. They must have known each other. Must have loved each other. And I think it's so nice to see Ezekiel Speaking of a contemporary labour and profit.

In such remarkable terms. All those down through history, there has been a tendency. Of those rules that God become jealous one of another. That's the suddenly of our natural hearts. What did you find? Where grace rises above it, and it's so sweet to see it. And it's so. Remember that, Paul? We did hit her to his face because he was to be blamed. He had what marvelous grace on Peters Park later on to speak of our beloved brother Paul. Well, there's nothing like the working of the Spirit of Christ in our hearts, beloved. In giving us to have the reaction that our blessed Lord would have had. Under similar circumstances. Now I have it before me just to give the barest outline of the distinguishing features. Of these three books, these three men rather. This man, Noah. Was a man who believed that the world was boon together. And he acted accordingly, both for himself and his family. Now I suppose we better turn back to the 6th of Genesis. 5th Ghost, Genesis 6. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth. And that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Eighth verse. But Noah found grace. In the eyes of the Lord. Think of how rapidly the earth had deteriorated from the time that. God started man on this fair earth with everything in his favor. When God looked upon that finished creation and pronounced it very good. And yet now we're only 1500 years down the corridor of time. And God has to write in His Word. That he saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continuing. I do not see how you could go any further than that verse. If it's every imagination, you're accepted. And the thoughts of his heart were only. Only. But evil. But that isn't that isn't enough. One more word. Continually. Think of getting up in the morning. Starting your day with thinking. All your thoughts were corrupt, wicked evil. Not one good thing ever passed through your mind. You go on through the day after that manner, you lie down at night. The last thought at night is the thought of wickedness. That that is contrary to the mind of God. That's the condition to which the world had fallen in the days of Noah. But God always has someone. For whom he can look. He can acknowledge always. So here we find in that eighth verse that God, that Noah found grace in the eyes of Jehovah. The name Noah means rest. You found grace in the eyes of Jehovah. I believe that we all sense that we're living in a day. When we're rapidly approximating the conditions that prevailed in Noah's time. I've lived quite a few years in this world myself.

And I can testify personally that I have seen a distinct degeneration. All along the line in the standards of humanity around us. Everything is on the down green. And, we're told in the Gospel of Matthew. That, in the end, time is just going to be like it was in the days of Moore. Things aren't getting one bit better, in fact. The emphasis is all in the opposite direction. Things are getting worse. Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse this evening. And being deceived. Well, yes, the time comes when. Even in professed personal male will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lust shall they heat themselves. Teachers having itching ears, and shall turn away their ears from the truth, and be turned on the fables. Let's not expect things to get better. No, things are not going to get better. We're getting ready. For the judgment of God to overwhelm this scene. The judgment of God. On mankind in his alienation and enmity to God and the judgment of God upon an apostate Christendom that's denied their only Lord and Savior. Word of God is full of testimony to bear out this statement. Noah lived in a day like that, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. All beloved Saints of God. The older I get, the more I see and am convinced that all is of grace. Free on Merited Haven, or how grateful we ought to be. Every day how we should drop on our knees and bless God for His goodness. That we're not out in the current of wickedness, in the vortex of iniquity that's raging around us today. What a mercy to be kept in the sense of God's goodness, to seek to live in fellowship by the Spirit with the Lord Jesus Christ. To recognize our link with that man in heaven that's coming any moment to take us out of this scene of defilement, to usher us into His glorious presence forever. Laura found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Are you a Christian? Are you all right? You found grace in the eyes of the Lord. All get down every day on your knees and bless God. That you found Grace in his eyes. Now the ninth verse. These are the generations. Ignore nor was a just man and perfect in his generations. And Noah walked with God. Remarkable man, wasn't he? No wonder he gets into the 18th into the 14th chapter of Ezekiel. Was a just man

perfect in his generations? Noah walked with God. How wonderful in the day of declension and a day of wickedness to have the mind of Christ and thread our way through this world apart from. Dear brother AH Rule, whom some of us knew personally. Used to say it's the path of the Christian. To slip through this world as quietly as possible. And I believe it was right. No, we're not to be blinking ourselves with high ambitions. No, we're not going to go through this world unsung. Unheralded, unnoticed. It need be. Go through it quietly. With a rejected Christ. Will I walk with God? You know, there's another man that walked with God, that was Enoch.

Enoch lived. Not too long before this. He walked with God. 300 and. 300 years. He walked with God. And then God took him. He went to heaven without dying. Wouldn't it be nice? For you, for me to be walking with God. And suddenly hear the call like Enoch and be taken to be with our blessed Lord. He walked with Gaw. Little how sad it would be, would it not, beloved? If that call came. And found us in a path of disobedience. World confinity of seeking after the poor. Perishing things of time. If we're restraining our every nerve and energy to make good in this world. How sad it would be to be interrupted with a call to meet our Lord. But if we were walking with God. As Enid did and as Noah did. How welcome, how glad we'd be for that call. Noah walked with God. The next chapter. And the first verse. And Jehovah said unto Noah. Come down all thy house into the ark that we have. I seen righteous before me in this generation. Come thou all thy house into the ark. We don't want to leave our loved ones outside, do we? God addresses the call to us. Come down. And all thy house into the ark. Well, beloved, that Ark is Christ. The arc is Christ and oh how good if we can see our loved ones safely house with us. In that faith, that pure, unadulterated, unadulterated faith. In our Lord Jesus Christ. Not an empty farm. It isn't just getting someone to put their name on the dotted line. It isn't just trying to induce people to join this or join that. It isn't even just souls to break bread. That isn't the answer, but all it's to have them attracted. Blessed person of the Lord Jesus Christ, come down all thy house into the ark. Are you burdened for your dear ones? You pray for them. Do you you speak to them about the Lord? All Noah was concerned about his family. And he invited the mall to go into the ark with him, and thank God they all went in. I will go down to 16th place. And they went in. Male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him. And the Lord shut him in, all as a sense of security. The Lord shut him in. Well, if the Lord did it, it was well done. No danger of any leak springing and the boat going to the bottom of the waters. No, no, the Lord shut him in. They. Once you get into the hand of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. No power in heaven or in earth can ever take you up. Have his own word for it. I give unto my sheep eternal life, and they shall never vary, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. And my Father which gave them to me, is greater than all, and none can pluck them out of my Father's hands. I and my Father are one. Only wonderful to think there won't be one soul in hell. That will be able to look up and say once I was safe in your hand, not once.

That blessed Pierce of the hand of our Lord Jesus Christ has never lost a man. Never, never. Will never can. The Lord shut him in. Good work and you will finish it until the day of Jesus Christ. That's emphatic. But it's not overemphasis, it's the simple, plain truth of God. In the 8th chapter in the first verse. And God remembered Noah. He's not going to forget you. He remembered Noah. And beloved, don't ever think. Today is forgotten, regardless of the circumstances. Supposing you are passing through something comparable to a great flood. Adverse circumstances of some kind. God is going to remember you. You're not going to forget just. 20th verse. And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord. And took of every clean beast and of every clean power. And offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savor. What's that? All in that offering that Noah made of the clean animals. After he came out of the ark. God smelled the Savior of Christ and his sacrifice. For that was what was typified in that offering of Noah. And on the ground of that offering, God is no more going to destroy the earth by a flood. God smelled a sweet savor. Noah, that dear man, Noah. Is now a worshipper on a new Earth, a renewed Earth. He is a worshiper. You know there's a difference between worship and service. Service isn't worship. And worship isn't service in that sense. And you know, in Scripture, worship comes first. We go in as holy priests into His presence to worship. Then we go out as royal priests to serve. But the two things are not confounded in Scripture. And so by Him, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually. That is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. That's working. To be good and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. That service. So Noah, we find him here on the renewed earth. A worshiper. No wonder that Ezekiel was led of the Spirit of God to summon Noah as an example. Of a righteous man. Our time is slipping by. So we go to Daniel next. We'll take these men in the order. That they're given. In our chapter. The name Daniel means. God is my judge. Daniel lived round numbers about 2000 years after Noah. Might read the third verse. The king spake under ash Pinas, the master of his units, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel. And of the King's seed. Notice that expression, the King's seed and of the Princess. Children in whom is no blemish. But well favored, skillful in all wisdom, cunning, and knowledge. Understanding science such as had ability in them to stand in the King's palace.

And whom they might teach the learning and tongue of the Chaldeans. Now, Daniel was a man who absolutely refused the path of compromise. He saw the truth of God and he went right down the line. No compromise with Daniel. Six verse. Among these were the children of Judah. Daniel, Hananiah, Mitchell and Azariah. Now notice he was at a King's seed. He was of Judah, he was of the royal line. And here he is, a captive, a captive in Babylon. Seventh verse. Unto whom the Prince of the eunuchs gave names for. He gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar Hananiah Shadrach. And to Michel Misha and Azariah Abednego. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the King's meat, nor with the wine which he drank. Therefore he requested of the Prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the Prince of the eunuchs. If we're willing to take the path of separation as Daniel did. God is going to work for us. Here was Daniel in the strange land. He was a captive. He was under the absolute power of the monarch, who could have beheaded him at will. That is with apart from God. And yet that man knew nothing. Of bowing to the will of that king if it transgressed the will of God. If he had stayed back home and lived up to his privileges as of the seed royal. He might eventually have had a place in this world. That it all passed by as a thing not to be sought by Daniel. He purposed in his heart that he had not defiled himself with the portion. Of the King's meat. If you will honor God in your life. He'll honor you. Them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. Oh, how often we've seen. This man who dared defy the king. Was made the highest ruler in the Kingdom under that king. Them that honor me. I will honor. All you dear young people here. I wish that you might get something from that eighth verse this afternoon. Daniel purpose in his heart. He would not defile himself. With a King's meeting. The King was a man of this world. All he knew was the feast on what this world had to give. What Daniel wanted? None of it. He wanted to be in communion with his God and all. How richly God blessed him. Verse 17. As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding and all visions and dreams. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding that the king inquired of them. He found them 10 times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. Daniel continued even under the first year of King Cyrus. God has not given us the spirit of fear. But of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. So it was here with Daniel. He wasn't living in constant fear when the time came to say his prayers.

He opened the window and he prayed toward his beloved Jerusalem. He wasn't ashamed to do it. No, God hasn't given us the spirit of fear, but of power. You have in you by the fact of your being a Christian, you have the potential. To overcome any and every temptation that may

come your way while you're here. That's the truth of God. Not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love, and of a sound mind. Isn't it wonderful to have a sound judgment? That's what that verse means. Gives the Christian the ability to analyze the various figurines and schemes and plans and hopes and ambitions and movements of this world, and to save them and see the folly of them. And he's the only one that does. He's given us the power and he's given us a sound mind that means a sound judgment. You remember when the First World War was on? That President Wilson. Created that little slogan that this is a war to end war. Remember that some of you at least do this. War is a war to end war. Now do you think any simple hearted believer that knew his Bible? Was the least bit impressed by that slogan of President Wilson. Why no, it wasn't impressed at one bit. He knew that according to the word of God. That wars are to continue in conflict and violence and corruption as long as man is left here on this earth. Apart from the delivering power of the returning Son of God. And so were the various movements that are on foot today. Man is convinced. That is going to breakthrough and sail out into outer space. And there's no stopping place. They're all mapped out what he's going to do. Now the Christian that knows his Bible. Knows it's fallen. God is going to keep man right here on this earth. He put him here and he's going to stay here. Is being able to get out into two or three. 100 miles of the earth. Is a simple matter compared to his ambitions. The heaven and the heaven of heavens are the Lord. But the earth has been given to the children of men. And here's where he's going to keep him. And when I see all these plans that are being made, the various major measure of achievement. I think of that verse in the second Psalm. He that sitteth in the heaven shall laugh. He shall have them in stronger reason. Oh, how foolish man is, and it's because he's given up God. God is not in all his thoughts. So he cast the knowledge of God behind his back, and he starts out on his path of insane folly. Well, with Daniel. God gave him wisdom and understanding and he found him 10 times better than all the magicians and astrologers that burn all his realm. Now look at the third chapter. The King is bringing forth now his. Threatenings. And he's. Going to be cast into the burning fiery furnace. 16th Verse Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered and said to the king. Or, Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer you on this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O King.

But if not, get known unto you that we will not serve thy gods. Nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Verse 25. He answered and said, lo, I see four men loose walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt. And the form of the 4th is likened to the Son of God. I'll go down to the 28th verse. Then Nebuchadnezzar spake and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his Angel and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the King's word and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any God except their own God. Now these are the associates of Daniel. They've been in his companionship, they've been under his influence. There's a verse that says make straight paths for your feet. Lest that which is lame be turned out of the way. Tell me, dear young Christian. Is it easier for the other young Christians? In the meeting where you are. Is it easier for them to walk with God? Because they're watching your life. Are you making straight paths for your feet? So that others. Deserve in you and acceptable example. And they're seeking to imitate your faith. Oh, what a tremendous influence this man Daniel must have had on these three companions of his. They yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any God except their own God. Are you yielding your body? To him, what are you doing with your body? All we read where besought that we present our bodies. A living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our intelligence service. You have only this one opportunity. Give only this one body to you. Are you using it just to gratify the lust of the flesh? Are you just living from day-to-day in pleasure, thinking up the next good time you can have apart from the will of God? Or how different it was with these three men. They wielded their bodies that they might not serve nor worship any God but their own God. Now the 6th chapter. And the third verse. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and Princess because of excellent spirit. Was in him and the king taught him to set over his whole realm. An excellent spirit was in him. You know, dear fellow Christian. It's no credit to us. To be of an unhappy critical fault finding spirit. No, the Word of God would have the Spirit of Christ to be with us. He would have us go in and out among our brethren as those that radiate. Encouragement and cheer, not at the expense of truth. Never. But all that we might have something of that spirit that was found here in Daniel, an excellent spirit was found in him. But the 23rd verse. Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den. In no manner of hurt was found upon him, because it believed in his God. Well, that's when they put the poor man and the lion's den. But nothing frightened him. Nothing turned him back. He was determined that he might be faithful even unto death. Now going on down toward the end of Daniel. And the 9th chapter. 23rd verse. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee, for thou art greatly beloved.

Thou art greatly beloved. Now the 10th chapter. And the 11Th verse. And he said unto me, Oh, Daniel, a man greatly beloved. Understand the words that I speak unto thee. 19th verse. And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not peace be under thee. Be strong may be strong, sweet, precious, comforting words, but he was worthy of it. Now the 12Th chapter. And the ninth verse. And he said, Go thy way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed at the time of the end. Now the last verse. Go thou thy way till the end be, for thou shalt rest. And stand in thy lock at the end of days. No wonder Daniel was summoned by Ezekiel to encourage the hearts of the remnant. In those terrible days of declension. But what about poor job? Well, we'll go back to job now, Now job. Lived about 600 years after Noah. And we have just stayed a few of the salient points. As to Joe? The word job probably means persecuted. There was a man in the land of Oz whose name was Job. That man was perfect and upright. One that feared God and eschewed evil. Job was an upright St. And he learned in God's presence they worthlessness. Of human goodness. And thus he came into the humble knowledge of Jehovah's love for it. He started out as we read here in the eighth verse. The Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job? There's none like him in the earth. A perfect and an upright man, and one that fears God and his cheweth evil. A model. A model man. He'd be a good neighbor. He was a kind man. If we read on in the book, he rehearses many of his own virtues farther on. Now God is going to test him. The point in job is this job was good. Saint of God. But he never really learned himself in God's presence. And perhaps it takes a lifetime to do that. But the point is this. Just because a child of God is living a correct. Blameless Christian life. Is no sign in itself that he is in the good, in his soul of what God has thought. There must be that discovery in God's presence of the absolute, utter worthlessness. Of all its of self. And the finding out that all the grace and all is of God. I suppose that Job's experience is somewhat like the 7th of Romans. Where Paul depicts what supposedly he had passed through. The struggle of the renewed man. A man who's born again. To find settled peace. When he makes the discovery that he has so much on the inside. That's contrary to the mind and will of God. Job hadn't found that out. God turns Job over to Satan to sift.

To prove he's going to let Satan be his agent, to help that man discover what he is. Now God says to Satan just so far no further. He says that the mighty waves of the ocean. And he says it through all the circumstances in your life. Don't ever think for a moment that everything is out of control and you're just being overwhelmed and there's no one that's looking after you. Don't ever think that, dear St. of God. Nothing is overlooked by God. Here was Satan ready enough to take up the task of showing the emptiness of Job, so-called uprightness and faithfulness. He's allowed to rob him of his property. And on the 21St verse. Here's Jobs reaction. Naked came out of my mother's womb. Naked shall I return? The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord in all this Job sin not, nor charge God foolishly. Well,

that was noble. We can't find any fault with that. Then in the second chapter. His wife. Sad thing to have a wife that acts like this, Dan said his wife unto him, the Dost thou still retain thine integrity, curse God and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women, What shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not also? Receive evil. And all this did not Job sin with his lips. Going to take more than that to bring this man to see where he is on the inside. Now the next chapter, 25th verse. For the thing which I greatly feared has come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come upon me. Down beneath all his self complacency. There was a lingering uncertainty. Underneath it all, he didn't have the right foundation. And you know, beloved. If you're just resting on your correct life. On the Christian testimony that you've been able to render. And you're imagining that? You're a pretty fine individual. Wrapped down underneath it all. There's a restlessness and an uncertainty. You're afraid of what's going to happen. What Job needed was to come to the end of himself. Paul did the 7th of Romans. And when he came to the end of himself, he said, Thanks be unto God that giveth us the victory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God. Yes, by faith. Now the 33rd chapter. The ninth verse. One's almost ashamed to read this verse. Job speaking. At least. It's what it was, the thought of his heart. I am clean without transgression. I am innocent. Neither is there iniquity in me. Oh, how sad. How sad Eli, who is giving him the truth of what was going on in his heart. Job is saying I'm clean without transgression, I'm innocent, neither is there any iniquity in me. Now turn to the 40th chapter. Keep that in mind and turn to the 40th chapter. And the fourth verse. Now we're getting on more solid ground. Then Job answered the Lord, and said, Behold, I am vile. Shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.

Once have I spoken. But I will not answer yet twice, but I will proceed no further. Now he's making progress. Thank God for that discovery. You're not boasting about there being no iniquity. And him, he's not boasting of his blameless life. All dear brother and sister in Christ. You and I really get into God's presence. All this beautifulness of what we are or what we've done for him. Is just going to wither into dust. And the little thing in your life or mine that's been for God is all of grace. Jonah learned his lesson in the belly of the whale in the bottom of the sea. Salvation is of the Lord. 42nd chapter. And the fifth verse. This is the climax. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I am for myself, and repent, and dust and ashes. Can't get lower than that. I abhor myself. In me, that is, in my flesh dwelleth no good thing. Oh, how good if we can learn that lesson. Job learned it. He got right down in the dust he threw away. All pretends to self righteousness and they told out the truth. Now in the next verse, and it was so after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to eliphize the team. And I my wrath is kindled against thee and against thy two friends. We have not spoken of me, the thing that is right as my servant. Job half ninth verse. So elophiles the Temonite and Bildad the shuite and Zofar, the name of that went. And did according as the Lord commanded them. The law accepted job. The new job. The Lord accepted him. He didn't accept the old one, but He accepts the new one. 10th verse And the Lord turned the captivity of Joel when he prayed for his friends also. The Lord gave job twice as much as he had before. Oh, you're not going to be the loser spiritually because you give your life over to his claims. You're not going to be the loser or how richly he blesses any little measure of surrender that we make to him. And as the result of that experience of Joel, he got his name linked along with that marvelous servant of God, Daniel. And that marvelous man of God. Got his name linked with them. And that wonderful chapter there any Zuki? Why did Ezekiel bring those names together? Because he wanted to encourage the little feeble remnant in the day of Rome. He wanted to tell him don't forget. God has had men like that. He's had, I know he's had a Daniel. He's had a Joan or Beloved. Can we learn lessons from these things, remnant days to be sure that God's standards don't change? There's all the truth for you and me that there was for the disciples in those early days, those blessed days that we read about. In the early chapters of the Acts, oh, may the Lord stir us up, set our faces afraid. Glory, let's buy the truth and sell it. Not is coming is so near.

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